

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims: Please amend the claims as follows:

We claim:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection of antigen-specific T lymphocytes ~~following activation of said T lymphocytes with an antigen~~, comprising ~~stimulating~~ activating said T lymphocytes with an antigen; ~~in the presence of a CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 thereby preventing the lowering of the level of said CD154 inside or outside the T lymphocytes~~ blocking or inhibiting the interaction between CD40 and CD154 with an anti-CD40 antibody or an anti-CD154 antibody; and detecting the ~~level~~[G4] expression of CD154 on T-lymphocytes using an antibody directed against CD154.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising detecting CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detected T lymphocyte cells comprise inflammatory, anti-inflammatory, regulatory or suppressive T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A method for the isolation of antigen-specific T lymphocyte cells in a suspension ~~following activation of said T lymphocytes with an antigen~~, comprising ~~stimulating~~ activating said T lymphocytes with an antigen; ~~in the presence of a CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154, thereby preventing the lowering of the level of said CD154 inside or outside the T lymphocyte~~ blocking or inhibiting the interaction between CD40 and CD154 with an anti-CD40 antibody or an anti-CD154 antibody; and determining intracellular or extracellular CD154 ~~levels using~~ expression on T lymphocytes with an antibody directed against CD154; and, wherein isolating T-lymphocyte cells having CD154 are isolated.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, comprising isolating CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, comprising detecting said intracellular or extracellular CD154 levels in or on vital cells.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, comprising isolating or separating T lymphocytes lacking a defined cytokine pattern.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) An antigen-specific T-lymphocyte cell detected or isolated using the method of claim 4.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) A method for the preventive or causal treatment of infectious, allergic, inflammatory, malignant or autoimmune disease comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the antigen-specific T-lymphocyte cell of claim 13.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising detecting the level[C2] expression of CD154 with a CD154-specific monoclonal antibody.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising detecting T lymphocytes as antigen specific by determining that said T lymphocytes exhibit a higher level[C3] expression of said CD154 following stimulation activation compared to a control population of T lymphocytes that have not been activated stimulated.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, further comprising isolating said T lymphocytes which exhibit a higher level[C4] expression of said CD154 following stimulation activation compared to a control population of T lymphocytes that have not been

~~activated~~ stimulated.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an antibody fragment which specifically binds to said CD154, a specifically modified antibody or an antibody associated with a phage or a fragment of said phage-associated antibody.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an antibody fragment which specifically binds to said CD154, a specifically modified antibody or an antibody associated with a phage or a fragment of said phage-associated antibody.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the anti-CD40 antibody or the anti-CD154 antibody prevents ~~CD40/CD154 system inhibitor is an antibody which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 thereby preventing the lowering of the level of~~ expression of said CD154 inside or outside the on said T lymphocytes.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the T lymphocytes are provided in a cell suspension.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the anti-CD40 antibody or the anti-CD154 antibody ~~CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154~~ prevents degradation of said CD154 ~~inside or outside the on~~ said T lymphocyte.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the anti-CD40 antibody or the anti-CD154 antibody ~~CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154~~ prevents degradation of said CD154 ~~inside or outside the on~~ said T lymphocyte.

Claim 26. (Cancelled)

Claim 27. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein the anti-CD40 antibody or the anti-CD154 antibody prevents the lowering of the expression of said CD154 on said T lymphocytes.